



GOVERNOR'S STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

State of Montana

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Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Issue 13

April 2006

Committee Updates

by Chris Wilhelm

Apprenticeship Advisory

A meeting was held April 13th to compile elements of an MOU to allow for seamless transition from formalized two-year educational institutions to work in related trades and crafts. Previously this was identified as an articulation agreement, however it was agreed that an MOU was a more appropriate format. The committee directed staff to draft an MOU including key components identified at that meeting. The draft will be available for action at the next Apprenticeship Advisory Committee meeting.

Economic Development

A conference call was held April 7th. They discussed Montana's Development Report Card which is published annually by the Center for Economic

Development. The report card measures performance, business vitality and development capacity. Although Montana received 2 C's and a D, our grades have improved! The committee identified common themes between two healthcare staffing reports that were presented. The Governor's office and Commissioner Kelly have expressed the importance of healthcare-related issues. The committee requested Chairman Grove contact Chairman Miles regarding the results of the healthcare staffing-related reports to determine if further action should be taken.

The committee would like speakers from Business Centers such as Kalispell's, or Chambers of Commerce at a future

meeting.

Executive Committee

Meeting by conference call on April 20th, the committee took action on the following items. A Healthcare Task Force will be formed based on recommendations made by the Economic Development Committee. The Chair will be a SWIB member, with the remaining members being private sector representatives. The task force needs to be in place and ready to take action by September.

The revised Statewide MOU was approved. Staff will begin gathering signatures.

Revised SWIB Operating Procedures were approved. A copy will be posted on the SWIB web by April 24. 

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Upcoming Events:

May 31

Nominations Due
Desiree Taggart Memorial Awards

June 8

Apprenticeship Advisory Committee
9:00 AM
Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

June 8

One-Stop Development Committee
9:00 AM
Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

June 8

Economic Development Committee
1:00 PM
Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

June 8

Workforce System Committee
1:00 PM
Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

June 9

SWIB
Time TBD
Helena Red Lion Colonial Inn

July 11–13

Workforce Innovations 2006
Annual Conference
Anaheim, CA



WIRED Grant

by Chris Wilhelm

The WIRED grant is \$15 million over a three year period. Montana was one of thirteen grants awarded from 97 applicants nationwide. Three major technical assistance firms have been contracted to assist the states with adult education issues and regional economic development. Montana is the largest geographic and rural area to be awarded the grant and Montana will leverage the money with other dollars across the state. The WIRED grant will be used to develop the successful industry cluster of biolubricants and bio-fuels creating a workforce de-

mand with specialty training provided by the tribal colleges, colleges of technologies, and universities, and produce higher value crops for the state. A steering committee has been formed who will be hiring a project manager and one other staff person to oversee the grant. The steering committee is optimistic about the results this grant will produce.

The Department of Commerce is responsible for administering \$3.5 million of the \$15 million awarded and the Department of Commerce is confident all part-

ners will be successful in creating job opportunities and a value added industry.

The Economic Development Committee and the SWIB will receive regular reports from the project director about any developments. Members are asked to refer any ideas that they may have or hear about to the program. Department of Labor and Industry will be instrumental to the project. Members will be advised of as training opportunities arise and should be aware of the training possibilities. 

April showers bring May flowers!



SHARE Network

by Chris Wilhelm

A memo was sent to CMT Chairs, Contacts and Delegates postponing the SHARE Network Training scheduled for April 25-27 in Helena.

The SHARE Network Leadership Team has been notified that there is currently a statewide database being developed by the United Way, called the Montana Database Project. It is being used in conjunction with 2-1-1: First Call for Help. Not wishing to duplicate efforts, we feel that it is best to postpone the SHARE Network training.

The United Way is 18 months into a 3-year grant to bring the Montana Database Project / 2-1-1 online. Bozeman, Great Falls,



Kalispell and Missoula will be the call center sites once statewide implementation is rolled out this summer. Missoula is in the test phase of the project now. The United Way anticipates the statewide database will be complete by the end of April, and has staff designated to maintain the database.

The US Department of Labor (USDOL) has indicated they would be willing to work with us to promote outreach efforts and develop sites where participants could access the Montana statewide database (called Access Points). This will be done after the database is complete, so we are discussing options for partnering with the United Way to assist with their marketing and

outreach efforts.

The response we received when requesting delegates for the SHARE Network training was very positive, and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your commitment to our workforce system. When we hold the Access Points portion of the training with USDOL, we would like to work with the delegates identified earlier this month by each CMT. The training will be about 1-1/2 days in Helena, and likely be held in late May or early June. We will advise as soon as a date is finalized.

We know that partnering with CMTs will ensure a coordinated, successful statewide project, and we look forward to working with the CMT in the coming months. [↑](#)

Statewide MOU

by Pam Watson

Under Workforce Investment Act law, the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) is required to have a statewide MOU with all WIA mandatory partners. The MOU basically states that all partners will work together to collaborate and coordinate efforts to ensure an efficient workforce system for the participants.

A draft MOU was reviewed and

approved by the SWIB during the January meeting. Minor adjustments were made to the document based on requests from one of the mandatory partners, the Section 166 grantees who represent tribal workforce development. The SWIB Executive Committee approved the final document on April 20th, and signatures will be obtained over the next couple of weeks. Hopefully by the time the SWIB meets in

June, a signed MOU will be in place for Montana's workforce system. [↑](#)

2006 Desiree Taggart Memorial Awards

Nominations are due May 31st!
Get forms on the SWIB website at www.boards.mt.gov/swib or by contacting Chris Wilhelm at ChrisWilhelm@mt.gov or 406-444-4480.

WIA Unit

by Kathy Yankoff

The WIA Unit kicks-off this year's technical assistance and monitoring cycle the last week of April with visits to all the Billings WIA service providers. The schedule runs through the second week in August and includes a visit to all the local WIA Service Providers. As you may note from the opening sentence, technical assistance is listed before monitoring. Why? Because we want to em-

phasize that our first priority is to be a resource for the successful delivery of WIA programs and our secondary role is to monitor for compliance with WIA law and regulations.

Update: Technical Assistance & Training (TAT) Sessions – A total of 110 WIA service provider staff



attended the TAT Sessions held in Billings and Missoula the last week of March. WIA Unit staff received a lot of feedback from session participants and many good suggestions for consideration in planning future TAT sessions and conferences. [↑](#)

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